

Optirat Plus SOP - Sterilizing Optirat Plus Components

 **Verify facility sterilizers are calibrated regularly. Animal Care Systems is not liable for damage done to cages or racks by faulty facility equipment.**

Cages

1. Remove all the cages from the rack by lifting the bottom corners and pulling outward (Figure 1). Cradle closer to the middle of the cage to provide additional support (Figure 2).



Figure 1

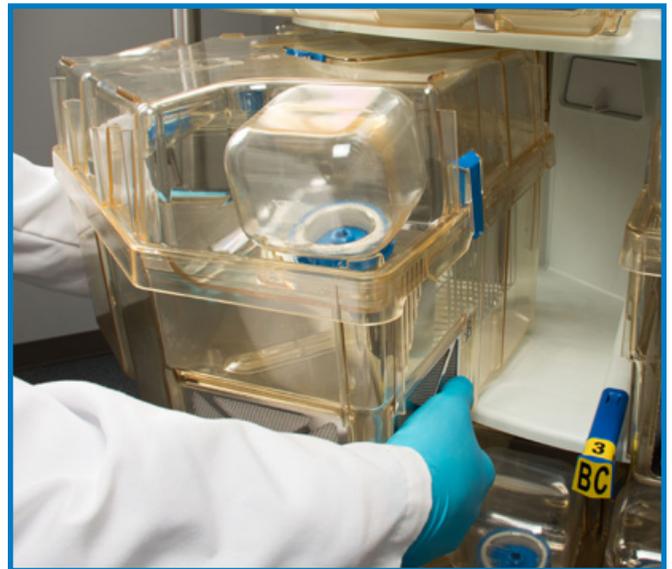


Figure 2

2. Use caution when stacking cage bases or assemblies for sterilization. Stacks that are too high will overload and warp the bottom cage(s). Limit stack heights to 5 cages for heat sterilization unless internal validation proves higher stacks.

 **The cages must not be sterilized while on the rack.**

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3. After the cycle, allow the cages to dry completely before docking on the rack with animals. **Verify the filters are dry before putting cages into use with animals.**

Replace filter media every 70 sterilization cycles.

During the wash-sterilization cycle, make sure that all the detergent is completely rinsed off every plastic surface before drying or heat sterilizing to extend the life of the plastic.

<u>Cage Sterilization Temperature Limit</u>		
	Sterilization Temperature	Maximum Duration
Polycarbonate	up to 250 F (121 C)	20 minutes
Polysulfone*	up to 300 F (148 C)	30 minutes

*Steam autoclave typical at 275 F (131 C)



If the filters are not completely dry, animals may receive inadequate airflow.

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Racks

Optirat Plus racks are compatible with steam, dry, and cold sterilization methods.

Contact Animal Care Systems for specific information about dry heat sterilization options and spray-on disinfectant compatibility.

1. Remove any additional shipped materials from the top of the rack.
2. Remove all the cages from the rack.
3. Open the bottom drain door by pulling on the steel handle connected to the bottom platter, and rotate it upward until it seats behind the notch (Figure 3). **Keep column drain door closed except when washing or sterilizing.**



Heat-sterilizing the rack while the cages are still docked will damage the rack.



Figure 3

4. (For auto-water racks) Untwist by hand the bottom water drain valve (Figure 4).



Figure 4

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5. (If using walk-in chamber) Roll the rack into the sterilization chamber, and begin the cycle. **Do not use temperatures above 250 degrees Fahrenheit (121 C).**
6. (If using a steam sterilizer) Allow the rack to dry for at least 60 minutes following the cycle. Make sure to leave open the drain door while drying.
7. After the rack is dry, pull the bottom drain door handle outward, rotate it 90 degrees until it clears the notch, and release it (Figure 5).

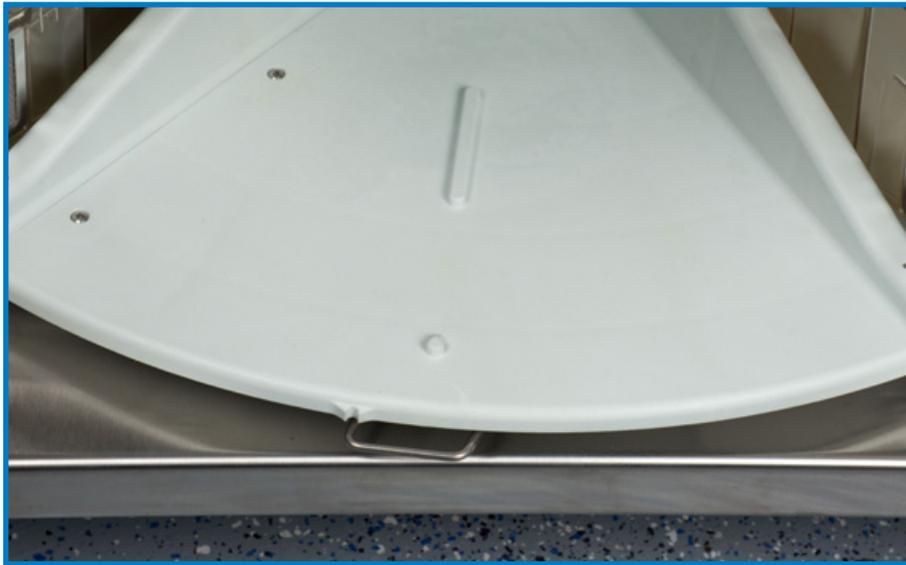


Figure 5

Rack Sterilization Temperature Limit

250 F (121 C)



Temperatures above 250 F will damage the rack platter.